(arising out of SLP (Civil) No. 20471 of 2005). Further, keeping in view the observations and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Coal) to evolve a new policy for distribution of coal. Therefore, at this stage no comparison could be made. Meanwhile, Coal India Limited (CIL) has, in the interim, put in place e-booking scheme to ensure that the supply of coal to consumers including non-linked consumers does not suffer.

Aryan Coal Benefication Washery

†1804. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land which houses Aryan Coal Benefication Washery (Dipika) today, was declared fit only for dumping by CMPDI;

(b) if so, by whose permission SECL allotted this land for washery to the said company; and

(c) the grounds on which recommendations of CMPDI—an expert agency in the field of Coal mining, were nullified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) With the permission of Ministry of Coal, out of 197 hectares of land identified for overburden dump of Dipika Opencast Project, only 5 hectares of land on the outer fringe was leased out by South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) in 1998 to M/s. Aryan Coal Benefication Private Limited for setting up of a coal benefication plant without affecting the dumping space.

(c) The recommendation of CMPDI has never been nullified.

Guidelines to coal washeries

†1805. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited has issued any guidelines to the effect that only those washeries be promoted which produce 65 per cent of ash *i.e.* 0 per cent UHV so that it does not remain fit for sale;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether coal washeries under SECL situated at Gevra Dipika, which is a barrel washery, can produce over 65 per cent of ash whether any enquiry into the same has been conducted by any competent authority; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal for conducting an enquiry into the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) In January 2007, Coal India Limited (CIL) has issued guidelines that in future, while formulating a Project Report for an opencast mine with a capacity of 2.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) or more and not linked to a pit head power house, a provision of coal washery, with State of Art Technology so as to yield rejects containing more than 65% ash, must be incorporated.

(b) and (c) There is no coal washery under South-Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) situated at Gevra Dipika which is a barrel washery and which can produce rejects with over 65 per cent of ash. In absence of any barrel washery at Gevra Dipika, the question of conducting an enquiry on this issue does not arise.

Requirement of coal for steel companies

†1806. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 85 per cent of the requirement of coal for steel companies is being met through import;

(b) if so, the quantum of coal imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether desired results have not been achieved inspite of allowing private agencies in coal mining sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps Government are taking to increase the production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The quantum of off-take of coking coal by Steel Sector, both imported and indigenous during the last three years is given below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.